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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 1 June 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates concerning the underground nuclear tests recently conducted out by India and Pakistan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yacub Yousif AL-HOSANI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Official statement issued on 30 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates concerning the the nuclear tests recently conducted by India and Pakistan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued the following statement:

The United Arab Emirates, genuinely believing in peace and desirous that a state of security and stability should prevail in the Middle East and South Asia, does not consider that the nuclear explosions recently conducted by India and Pakistan serve the cause of security and stability. On the contrary, they have increased tension in South Asia and have in no way contributed to the resolution of existing problems.

At the same time, the United Arab Emirates considers that the double standard applied by the international community to Israel in exempting its nuclear installations from international inspection and the safeguards system has encouraged the nuclear arms race. The United Arab Emirates therefore urges that all nuclear weapons be completely and absolutely banned, and that the Middle East become a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

The United Arab Emirates appreciates the view of the Pakistani Government that the nuclear tests that were carried out may be considered a legitimate right, and were intended to maintain security and defend that country's interests and territorial integrity. Nevertheless, in view of the historical ties of friendship that link the United Arab Emirates to both India and Pakistan, it calls upon each of those countries to exercise self-control and resume discussions with a view to reducing the level of tension, promoting security and stability in the region and bringing development and well-being to their peoples.